

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 and 3-5 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An injection molding machine comprising:

(a) a mold closing processing section which means for advancing advances a movable platen so as to perform mold closing by a movable mold and a stationary mold disposed in opposition to the movable mold;

(b) a movable-platen-position determination means for determining section which determines whether or not the movable platen has reached an injection start position set between a mold opening limit position and a mold closing limit position, at which the movable mold does not come into contact with the stationary mold; and

(c) an injection processing means for starting section which starts an injection step when the movable platen reaches the injection start position.

2. (Original) An injection molding machine according to claim 1, wherein a pressure increasing step is started with start of the injection step.

3. (Currently Amended) An injection molding machine according to claim 1, wherein the injection processing ~~means~~ section starts the injection step before completion of a mold closing step.

4. (Currently Amended) An injection molding machine according to claim 1, wherein the injection processing ~~means~~ section ends the injection step before completion of a pressure increasing step.

5. (Currently Amended) An injection molding method comprising the steps of:

(a) advancing a movable platen so as to perform mold closing by a movable mold and a stationary mold disposed in opposition to the movable mold;

(b) determining whether or not the movable platen has reached an injection start position set between a mold opening limit position and a mold closing limit position, at which the movable mold does not come into contact with the stationary mold; and

(c) starting an injection step when the movable platen reaches the injection start position.